

September 7, 2005

NEWS

For Immediate Release

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**State Closes Registration Moose Hunt RM840 in the Kuzitrin Drainage of Unit 22D**

The Alaska Department of Fish and Game announces an emergency order closure of the State registration moose hunt RM840 in the Kuzitrin River drainage of Unit 22D at 11:59 p.m. September 8, 2005.

A harvest quota of 33 bulls was set for the Kuzitrin drainage, which includes the Kougarak and Pilgrim River drainages. Current reported harvest from this portion of Unit 22D is 29 bull moose and harvest is expected to reach 33 bulls by the season closing date announced in this emergency order.

Moose censuses of the Kuzitrin drainage have shown a 50% decline in the moose population since 1988. The Alaska Board of Game established a registration hunt and the department set a harvest quota intended to reduce the average annual harvest in this area by 50%. These restrictions are intended to improve the bull:cow ratio and aid in population recovery.

The season closure was made in consultation with Federal managers from the National Park Service and Bureau of Land Management and will apply on both State and Federal lands in the Kuzitrin River drainage portion of Unit 22D.

The registration hunts in western Unit 22B, Unit 22C, and Unit 22D Southwest remain open at this time.

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FOR INFORMATION CONTACT:

Kate Persons, Peter Bente or Tony Gorn  
ADF&G Wildlife Conservation  
Pouch 1148  
Nome, AK 99762  
tel: 907-443-2271  
fax: 907-443-5893  
toll free: 800-560-2271 (Alaska Only)

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